

# The Invasion of Italy

9\*

bestowed upon him the title of Senior Augustus, and a golden statue, adorned, according to the Ninth Panegyrist (c. 25), with the attributes of a god, while all Italy subscribed for the shield and the crown.

The Senate also instituted games and festivals in honour of Constantino's victory, and voted him the triumphal arch which still survives as one of the most imposing ruins of Imperial Rome and a lasting monument to the outrageous vandalism which stripped the Arch of Titus of its sculptures to grace the memorial of his successor. Under the central arch on the one side is the dedication, "To the Liberator of the City\*" on the other, "To the Founder of Our Repose " (Fundatori quietis). Above stands the famous inscription\* in which the Senate and people of Rome dedicate this triumphal arch to Constantine "because, at the suggestion of the divinity (instinctu divinitatis), and at the prompting of his own magnanimity, he and his army had vindicated the Republic by striking down the tyrant and all his satellites at a single blow/\* "At the suggestion of the divinity! " The words lead us naturally to discuss the conversion of Constantine and the Vision of the Cross.

\* The inscription on the Arch of Constantine runs as follows: \*\* Imp. CCES. Fl. Constantino Maximo

P. F. Augusta S. P. Q.  
f. Quod instinctu divinitatis  
mentis  
Magni iudine cum  
exercitu suo Tarn de  
tyranno quam de omni ejus  
Factione uno tempore  
jusiis Rempubicam ultus  
e\$ t armis  
Arcum triumphis insignem dicavit"